

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

June 28, 2023

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****REVISED MEDIA RELEASE – New information is highlighted.**

Town of Bluffton hosts second annual Independence Day Celebration

The Town of Bluffton is hosting its second annual Independence Day Celebration, July 1, 2023. The celebration will begin with a pre-party at Martin Family and DuBois Parks and the firework show will begin shortly after 9:00 p.m.

- **Pre-Party:** The pre-party will be located at Martin Family and DuBois Parks, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. The pre-party will feature:
 - **Carnaval, interactive games:** Games, such as an inflatable axe and score-a-basketball-hoop, will be contested at Martin Family Park. Children will receive a patriotic-themed prize at each game station, while supplies last.
 - **Concessions:** Food and drinks, such as hotdogs, pretzels, snow cones, and lemonade, will also be available from a vendor at Martin Family Park.
 - **Food Trucks:** Chef B's EatZ, Rolling Cow Creamery, Lowco Grub, Bluffton Oyster Co., Cinnabon and G'Ma On Ice. Food trucks will be located on Bridge Street.
 - **Rock wall, bungee jump station and bounce houses:** These stations will be located throughout and between Martin Family and DuBois Parks.
 - **Music:** D.J. Jeff Taylor will provide musical entertainment all evening. The Parris Island Brass Band Marine Ensemble will play from 6-7 p.m. Local performer Nina Hand will sing the National Anthem at 5:55 p.m.
- **Fireworks:** The 20-minute fireworks display will be launched from a barge in the May River; the show can be viewed from Oyster Factory and Wright Family Parks.

- **Parking:** People are asked to park at M.C. Riley Elementary School (200 Burnt Church Road) and shuttle to the activities. Palmetto Breeze is providing a continuous, free shuttle service from 3 p.m. – 11 p.m. to Martin Family Park (68 Boundary Street) from M.C. Riley Elementary School. Churches in the Historic District will also provide paid parking. Parking is available at Cornerstone Church (1300 May River Road and First Zion Missionary Baptist Church (10 Robertson Street). These churches will collect a specific fee and those funds will contribute to church programs and projects.
- **Handicapped Parking:** Town Hall parking lot on Pritchard and Bridge, across from Town Hall (20 Bridge Street), will be designated for anyone who has mobility issues. A golf cart company will assist in transporting people who are disabled or have mobility challenges. This service is free.
- **Road Closures:** Most roads in the Historic District, where the festivities are happening, near and adjacent to Martin Family Park, DuBois Park, Wright Family Park, and Oyster Factory Park, will be closed for vehicular traffic. A public safety improvement from the inaugural Independence Day event was minimizing the mixing of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Therefore, there will be more street closures so pedestrians can move safely and freely.
 - Most street closures will begin 3 p.m. Saturday. The exceptions are Lawrence & Green Streets, which will be closed beginning Friday night for event setup.
 - Bluffton police officers will close Calhoun Street to traffic (South of Green Street to Water Street), beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday.
 - Bridge Street from the intersection of Boundary Street to Wharf Street will be closed beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday.
 - The apartments and businesses at The Bridge @ Calhoun will have access to the development's private parking lot. If you are accessing this parking lot during the festivities and/or street closures, it is recommended drivers use Calhoun Street and turn left onto Green Street.
 - Note: Church of the Cross (Calhoun Street site) Saturday night service, which begins at 5:28 p.m., can be accessed via Allen & Water Streets for attendees. A Bluffton police officer will be stationed at Church of the Cross to assist with church traffic.

The following intersections will be staffed by Bluffton police officers, and they can provide local access except during 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. If residents are hosting parties or gatherings on the streets listed below, please note there will be NO vehicular traffic from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

to ensure safety for pedestrians. Therefore, please inform your guests to come before 8 p.m. and leave after 10 p.m.

- Intersection of Wharf and Bridge Streets
- Intersection of Water and Calhoun Streets
- Allen Street

Oyster Factory & Calhoun Street Docks will be closed: Please also be aware Oyster Factory and Calhoun Street Docks will be CLOSED to pedestrians. Boats and boaters will be allowed to use docks to enter and exit the May River. Last year, both docks were overloaded with people and presented a possible capacity issue.

Schedule highlights for the Town's Independence Day Celebration

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Independence Day Pre-Party/Martin Family & Dubois Parks

5:55 p.m.: Local performer Nina Hand will sing National Anthem/Martin Family Park

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.: The Parris Island Brass Band Marine Ensemble/Martin Family Park

9 p.m.: Fireworks show begins. The fireworks will be able to be seen from Oyster Factory Park & Wright Family Park.

Reminder unpermitted fireworks are illegal

Please leave fireworks to the professionals.

Unpermitted fireworks are prohibited in the Town of Bluffton.

Bluffton police officers will respond to any complaint of fireworks in the town limits and confiscate them.

Bluffton ordinance, Sec. 14-99, states it is unlawful for anyone to fire, shoot, discharge, offer for sale, store, exchange, give away or possess any fireworks in Town limits.